

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 30 AUG 49

SUBJECT 1. Troop Strength in Thuringia
2. AT/Armored Exercise at Ohrdruf

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Gera (K06), 4-5 July

a. Former AT Kaserne - Only housekeeping troops, wearing black tabs. According to a local hotel keeper, troops from this barracks, who have been in Gera for three years, are currently training at Ohrdruf. Parked vehicles [REDACTED]

b. Infanterie Kaserne - About 300 men, mostly recruits wearing black tabs/red piping. Only two vehicle sheds were occupied. A unit returning from training on 4 July had three 122 mm howitzers M 38, towed by full tracks. [REDACTED]

2. Altenburg (K27), 6-7 July

a. Infanterie Kaserne - Housekeeping troops only. One vehicle parked here: [REDACTED]

b. Artillerie Kaserne - 300 recruits, some seen training with five 152 mm howitzers M37. Housed in sheds: truck [REDACTED] and two 4-axle trailers like those used during the war as mobile command posts.

c. Airfield - Occupied by 500 men. On the field, 2 PO-2 and 21 Dakota-type transports. One of these took off on 6 July but there was no other air traffic. One hangar was open and empty. [REDACTED]

3. Jena (J66), 8-9 July

a. Kradschützenkaserne - This Jena-Zwätzen barracks is held only by housekeeping troops. Vehicles: [REDACTED] was observed earlier [REDACTED] in the Crawlkel area.

b. Artillerie Kaserne - A local resident states that 400 recruits came to this Jena-Löbstedt barracks direct from the USSR about a month ago, bringing total strength to approximately 600 men. The recruits are restricted to the kaserne area. Some of the older men wear Guards and armored insignia. A few recruits were seen on the firing range northwest of Zwätzen with three T-34/85's. [REDACTED]

c. Jena-West barracks - Small guard unit only. No vehicle traffic.

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a. A combined AT/armored exercise was observed at the western end of the training grounds on 12 July. The moving AT unit was flank attacked by armor. The AT guns were detached from towing vehicles and placed in positions which were not dug in until the attack was beaten off. Guns were unhitched and made ready for firing on an average of 60 seconds per piece. All positions chosen were on forward slopes, which source notes is contrary to former German practice. No other combined exercises of AT and armor or infantry and armor have been seen in this area.

b. Unloaded in Gotha on 12 July: 50 artillerymen, five 100 mm AT guns M44 drawn by half-tracks, two trucks [redacted] This column moved into the wooded area one kilometer east of Wipperoda (H58), where source observed a total of twenty-two 100 mm AT guns M44. Parked at this point were vehicles [redacted]

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